



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

March 7th, 2011

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We write in support of Southwest Airlines' proposed acquisition of AirTran Airways (AirTran). We believe this combination will result in significant benefits to Iowans and other Midwestern travelers by providing more convenient, low-fare travel options to destinations throughout the United States.

The addition of Southwest's larger and stronger national network will offer Iowans many additional airline travel options to major domestic markets. As the nation's largest domestic air carrier in terms of passengers carried, Southwest also has the ability to bring more travelers to Iowa. Both are vital to boosting economic activity and job creation in our state.

We know the U.S. Department of Justice will fully examine the competitive impacts of Southwest's proposed acquisition of AirTran in a fair and expeditious manner. We hope that you will reach the same conclusion we have, that this arrangement will lead to net positives for U.S. consumers, including those who live and work in Iowa.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor of Iowa

Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General